

Message Text

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ORIGIN PM-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 ERDA-05

FEA-01 ACDA-05 IO-10 EB-07 NRC-05 OES-03 /096 R

DRAFTED BY OPNAV616:CAPT HURT/RI

APPROVED BY PM/NPO:LVNOSENZO

PM/NPO - CDR ZIMMER

EUR/WE - MR. SWIHART

OASD(ISA) - CDR GRUNAWALT

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R 291811Z AUG 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ROME

INFO SECDEF

CNO WASHDC

CINCUSNAVEUR

COMSUBGRU EIGHT NAPLES

COMFAIRMED NAPLES

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 206236

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MNUC, IT, OCON

SUBJECT:NUCLEAR POWERED WARSHIP RELATED ISSUES

REF: (A) ROME 11474, (B) ROME 11705, (C) ROME 11768,
(D) US NAVY REPORT OF MONITORING NEAR LA MADDALENA,
ITALY, FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RADIOACTIVITY, 1974, REPORT
NT-75-2.

1. DEPARTMENT SHARES EMBASSY VIEW THAT THE USG SHOULD NOT
BE OFFICIALLY REPRESENTED AT ENVIRONMENTALIST SEPTEMBER
24-25 MEETING BUT WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO A DAO
UNOFFICIAL OBSERVER SO LONG AS IT IS CLEAR THAT HE IS
CONFIDENTIAL

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NOT A U.S. REP. WE WELCOME THE GOI DECISION NOT TO SEND
OFFICIAL REPRESENTATION SINCE THEIR PRESENCE COULD LEND
OFFICIAL SANCTION TO ANY CONCERNS WHICH MAY BE ESPOUSED.

2. THE MAIN THRUST OF EMBASSY ACTION IN CONNECTION WITH FALSE CHARGES OF RADIOACTIVE POLLUTION AT LA MADDALENA SHOULD BE TO PREVAIL UPON THE GOI TO REFUTE SUCH ALLEGATIONS BY PUBLISHING THE RESULTS OF THEIR OWN ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING. THOSE RESULTS ARE CONSISTENT WITH US DATA WHICH CONTINUE TO CONFIRM THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO INCREASE IN THE GENERAL BACKGROUND RADIOACTIVITY IN LA MADDALENA ATTRIBUTABLE TO NPW PRESENCE. WE SHOULD ALSO CONTINUE

TO ENCOURAGE THE GOI TO MONITOR OTHER ITALIAN PORTS, PARTICULARLY THOSE WHERE NPW HAVE NOT VISITED, IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH THAT THE BACKGROUND RADIOACTIVITY AT OTHER LOCATIONS IS NOT UNLIKE THAT IN LA MADDALENA.

3. WHILE WE ARE NOT COMPLETELY RULING OUT AN ATTEMPT TO GET A FAVORABLE PRESS ARTICLE, DEPARTMENT AND DOD HAVE STRONG RESERVATIONS ABOUT EMBASSY MAKING SUCH AN EFFORT. WE DO NOT WANT TO BE ACCUSED OF ATTEMPTING TO INFLUENCE ITALIAN OPINION BY PLANTING A PRESS STORY. A MORE DESIRABLE APPROACH WOULD BE FOR THE GOI TO SEEK THE COOPERATION OF THE ITALIAN PRESS. IF EMBASSY AGREES, WE HAVE NO OBJECTION TO FURNISHING APPROPRIATE UNCLASSIFIED INFORMATION ON LA MADDALENA BASING, US NAVY ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS, AND AN UNCLASSIFIED TOUR TO USS GILMORE IN LA MADDALENA TO SELECTED MEMBERS OF THE PRESS WHOM THE GOI FEEL WOULD DO A FAVORABLE ARTICLE. VISIT TO SUBMARINES SHOULD NOT BE INCLUDED.

4. REF (D) WHICH RECENTLY HAS BEEN ISSUED, IS NOW AVAILABLE FOR USE IN EFFORTS TO REFUTE POTENTIAL POLLUTION CHARGES. THE RESULTS IN THIS LATEST ANNUAL REPORT, COPIES OF WHICH ARE BEING POUCHED, ARE CONSISTENT WITH PAST LA MADDALENA REPORTS AND CONTINUE TO CONFIRM THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO INCREASE IN THE GENERAL BACKGROUND RADIOACTIVITY IN LA MADDALENA. EMBASSY MAY PROVIDE COPIES OF REF (D) TO MFA AND CNEN TO SUBSTANTIATE ITALIAN MONITORING RESULTS AND TO ASSIST THEM IN CONFIDENTIAL

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RESPONDING TO ANY POLLUTION CHARGES WHICH MAY ARISE. PLEASE POUCH RESULTS OF LARGE SCALE CNEN MONITORING CURRENTLY UNDERWAY IN LA MADDALENA AS SOON AS AVAILABLE. INGERSOLL

CONFIDENTIAL

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